General Assembly

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Seventieth session
Agenda item 17

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 22 December 2015

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/70/469)*]

70/184. Information and communications technologies for development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 56/183 of 21 December 2001, 57/238 of 20 December 2002, 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 59/220 of 22 December 2004, 60/252 of 27 March 2006, 62/182 of 19 December 2007, 63/202 of 19 December 2008, 64/187 of 21 December 2009, 65/141 of 20 December 2010, 66/184 of 22 December 2011, 67/195 of 21 December 2012, 68/198 of 20 December 2013 and 69/204 of 19 December 2014,

Recalling also Economic and Social Council resolutions 2006/46 of 28 July 2006, 2008/3 of 18 July 2008, 2009/7 of 24 July 2009, 2010/2 of 19 July 2010, 2011/16 of 26 July 2011, 2012/5 of 24 July 2012, 2013/9 of 22 July 2013 and 2014/27 of 16 July 2014, and taking note of Council resolution 2015/26 of 22 July 2015 on the assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society,

Reaffirming its resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which it adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets, its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of this Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions — economic, social and environmental — in a balanced and integrated manner, and to building upon the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals and seeking to address their unfinished business,

Reaffirming also its resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

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Recalling further its resolution 68/302 of 31 July 2014 on the modalities for the overall review by the General Assembly of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, and welcoming the high-level meeting of the Assembly for the overall review held in December 2015,

Recalling the Declaration of Principles and the Plan of Action adopted by the World Summit on the Information Society at its first phase, held in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003,[1] and endorsed by the General Assembly,[2] and the Tunis Commitment and the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society adopted by the Summit at its second phase, held in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005,[3] and endorsed by the Assembly,[4]

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels,[5]

Noting the holding of the World Summit on the Information Society Forum, jointly organized annually by the International Telecommunication Union, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and the United Nations Development Programme, the first 10-year review event of the World Summit on the Information Society, coordinated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in Paris from 25 to 27 February 2013, and the high-level event on the 10-year review of the World Summit, coordinated by the International Telecommunication Union in Geneva from 10 to 13 June 2014,

Noting also the establishment of the Broadband Commission for Digital Development, at the invitation of the Secretary-General of the International Telecommunication Union and the Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, taking note of the "Broadband targets for 2015", which set targets for making broadband policy universal and for increasing affordability and uptake in support of internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, taking note also of the report of the Broadband Commission entitled *The State of Broadband 2015: Broadband as a Foundation for Sustainable Development*, which provides a country-by-country evaluation of those targets and the state of broadband deployment worldwide,

Noting further the holding of the eighteenth session of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in Geneva from 4 to 8 May 2015,

Taking note of the report of the Commission at its eighteenth session,[6] including a summary of the substantive discussion on the 10-year review of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit[7] along with a link to the interventions made in that regard,[8] and the report prepared by the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, entitled "Implementing World Summit on the

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[1] See A/C.2/59/3, annex.

[2] See resolution 59/220.

[3] See A/60/687.

[4] See resolution 60/252.

[5] A/70/63-E/2015/10.

[6] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2015, Supplement No. 11* (E/2015/31).

[7] Ibid., annex II.

[8] Ibid., footnote *a*.

Information Society outcomes: a 10-year review", which was the basis for the substantive discussion, which have been forwarded to the preparatory process for the high-level meeting of the General Assembly as input for its deliberations,

Noting the references to information and communications technologies contained in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda,

Recognizing the fact that information and communications technologies are critical enablers of economic development and investment, with consequential benefits for employment and social welfare, and that the increasing pervasiveness of information and communications technologies within society has had profound impacts on the ways in which Governments deliver services, businesses relate to consumers and citizens participate in public and private life,

Welcoming the efforts undertaken by the host countries in organizing the meetings of the Internet Governance Forum, held in Athens in 2006, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 2007, in Hyderabad, India, in 2008, in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, in 2009, in Vilnius in 2010, in Nairobi in 2011, in Baku in 2012, in Bali, Indonesia, in 2013, in Istanbul, Turkey, in 2014, and in João Pessoa, Brazil, from 10 to 13 November 2015,

1. *Recognizes* that information and communications technologies have the potential to provide new solutions to development challenges, particularly in the context of globalization, and can foster sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth and sustainable development, competitiveness, access to information and knowledge, poverty eradication and social inclusion that will help to expedite the integration of all countries, especially developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, into the global economy;

2. *Encourages* strengthened and continuing cooperation between and among stakeholders to ensure the effective implementation of the outcomes of the Geneva[1] and Tunis[3] phases of the World Summit on the Information Society through, inter alia, the promotion of national, regional and international multi-stakeholder partnerships, including public-private partnerships, and the promotion of national and regional multi-stakeholder thematic platforms in a joint effort and dialogue with developing countries, including the least developed countries, development partners and actors in the information and communications technologies sector;

3. *Notes* the progress that has been made by United Nations entities in cooperation with national Governments, regional commissions and other stakeholders, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector, in the implementation of the action lines contained in the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society, and encourages the use of those action lines for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;[9]

4. *Stresses* the important role played by the private sector, civil society and technical communities in information and communications technologies;

5. *Recognizes* the rapid growth in broadband access networks, especially in developed countries, and expresses concern about the growing digital divide in the availability, affordability, quality of access and use of broadband between high-

[9] Resolution 70/1.

income countries and other regions, with the least developed countries and Africa, as a continent, lagging behind the rest of the world;

6. *Expresses concern* regarding the digital divide between countries at different levels of development in access to information and communications technologies and broadband connectivity, which affects many economically and socially relevant applications in such areas as government, business, health and education, and also expresses concern with regard to the special challenges faced in the area of broadband connectivity by developing countries, including the least developed countries, small island developing States and landlocked developing countries;

7. *Notes* the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional level, facilitated by the regional commissions, as observed in the report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional and international levels;[5]

8. *Encourages* the United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, within their respective mandates and strategic plans, to contribute to the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, and emphasizes the importance of allocating adequate resources in this regard;

9. *Welcomes with appreciation* the offer made by Mexico to host the meeting of the Internet Governance Forum in 2016, and recommends that the extension of the mandate of the Forum be considered in the context of the overall review in 2015;

10. *Stresses* the need for the enhanced participation of all developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, in all meetings of the Internet Governance Forum, and in this regard invites Member States, as well as other stakeholders, to support the participation of Governments and all other stakeholders from developing countries in the Forum itself, as well as in the preparatory meetings;

11. *Recognizes* the need to harness the potential of information and communications technologies as critical enablers of sustainable development and to overcome the digital divide, and stresses that capacity-building for the productive use of such technologies should be given due consideration in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development;[10]

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its seventy-first session, through the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the Economic and Social Council, a report on the status of the implementation of and follow-up to the present resolution, taking into account the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the review process of the World Summit on the Information Society and other relevant processes, as part of his annual reporting on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit at the regional and international levels, and decides to include the item entitled "Information and communications technologies for development" in the provisional agenda of its

[10] Resolution 69/313.

seventy-first session, unless otherwise agreed in the discussions on the revitalization of the Second Committee.

81st plenary meeting
22 December 2015